

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 L-03 INR-07 DODE-00

NSC-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 EUR-12 /059 W

----- 043767

R 040950Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4133

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7672

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, RP

SUBJ: SECRETARY MELCHOR ON US BASES

1. IN TALK TO FILIPINO COMMERCIAL ATTACHES JUNE 2, EXECSEC MELCHOR SAID THAT US MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO "TOURIST SPOTS AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS", FOLLOWING THEIR FORMAL TURNOVER TO GOP BY US IN 1991. MELCHOR SAID BASES (SUBIC) WOULD BE DEVELOPED INTO "SPIN-OFF SHIP-YARDS" AND "DRY-DOCKING CENTERS" FOR INTER-ISLAND OCEAN-GOING VESSELS TO ENHANCE COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRADE. CAMP JOHN HAY IN BAGUIO WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO TOURIST SPOT PERHAPS THROUGH JOINT VENTURES AMONG FILIPINOS AND AMERICANS ON 60-40 PERCENT EQUITY BASIS. MELCHOR SAID CLARK AFB MIGHT BE SST TERMINAL ALTHOUGH PREVIOUS REPORTS INDICATE GOP ALSO THINKING OF IT AS UNIVERSITY CITY.

2. MELCHOR STATED THAT WHILE 1991 STILL 16 YEARS AWAY, GOP MUST DRAW ITS "OWN SCENARIO" OF SELF-RELIANCE IN FIELD OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY. HE POINTED OUT GOP COULD PROFIT FROM EXPERIENCES OF SINGAPORE AND JAPAN WHICH HAD TAKEN
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OVER LANDS FORMALLY OCCUPIED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS UNDER

MILITARY BASES AGREEMENTS. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NOTED SINGAPOREAN GOVERNMENT HAD INVESTED \$105 MILLION DOLLARS IN CONVERTING PREVIOUS BRITISH NAVAL BASES INTO INTERNATIONAL SHIPYARDS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE HAD PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE USE OF BASES AND PRIVATE INDICATIONS THAT GOP, INCLUDING MELCHOR ARE THINKING ABOUT POST-1991, THIS IS FIRST TIME MELCHOR HAS PUBLICALLY STATED GOP THINKING IN TERMS OF BASES AGREEMENT RUNNING UNTIL 1991 AND FIRST TIME CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE PUBLICIZED SUCH A STATEMENT.
PURNELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA07672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0087
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750682/aaaacwyx.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY MELCHOR ON US BASES
TAGS: MARR, US, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006